



NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact:

Sarah Ardalani
Public Information Officer
213-257-2000
SArdalani@da.lacounty.gov
Twitter: @LADAOOffice

Aug. 11, 2015

Couple Charged with Child Abuse, Man Accused of Killing Toddler

A couple accused of physically abusing the woman's two young children, leading to a toddler's death, was charged yesterday, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Samuel Aguilar (dob 6/11/92) has been charged with five felony counts: one count each of murder, assault on a child causing death and injuring a girlfriend and two counts of child abuse in case NA102339.

Aguilar's girlfriend, Jessica Rey Cereceres (dob 8/30/90), has been charged in the same case with two felony counts of child abuse.

Aguilar is scheduled to be arraigned tomorrow in Department S01 at the Los Angeles County Superior Court in Long Beach. Prosecutors will ask that the defendant's bail be set at \$1.28 million.

Cereceres appeared today for arraignment, but the court appearance was continued to Aug. 27 in Department S01 at the Los Angeles County Superior Court in Long Beach. Her bail has been set at \$200,000.

Prosecutors said Aguilar and Cereceres lived together as boyfriend and girlfriend with the female defendant's two small children. At the time of the incident, the two boys were one and two years old.

On Aug. 10, 2014, the 2-year-old was brought to the hospital for treatment of body trauma and was later pronounced dead, prosecutors said.

Law enforcement began an investigation into the child's death and discovered the 1-year-old also had injuries to his body, prosecutors added.

After a year-long examination of reports and evidence, authorities charged Aguilar and Cereceres in connection with the children's injuries.

If convicted as charged, Aguilar faces a possible maximum sentence of life in state prison, while Cereceres could be in prison for up to 7 years and eight months.

This domestic violence case is being investigated by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

#

About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Last year, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#) prosecuted more than 71,000 felony defendants and nearly 112,000 misdemeanor defendants.